

***- Hall: The Wallkill Facility is the Optimal Location for a Comprehensive FEMA Hub***

*Washington, DC* – U.S. Representative John Hall (D-NY19) has urged the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to locate its proposed Northeast regional hub in Wallkill, New York.

"Recent weather-related disaster declarations in the Hudson Valley, plus the ongoing need to ensure rapid response to New York City security threats make Wallkill the optimal location for a comprehensive FEMA hub," said Hall.

The proposed Northeast regional hub will be a comprehensive emergency response center for the entire Northeastern United States. The hub will serve as the storage site for FEMA's NE operations. In the event of an emergency, some command operations, but mostly vehicles and supplies would be available for the entire NE region.

In a letter to FEMA Administrator David Paulison, Hall asked for the new hub to be located at the existing home of the FEMA Prepositioned Equipment Program (PEP) in Wallkill. Hall toured the PEP facility, located at 135 Crotty Road in Wallkill, this July. The space is currently partially shared with the Red Cross for supplies.

"Given the site's location, just outside of the high-threat New York City area, crucial support and supplies would be available in a relatively short period of time to millions of people," Hall wrote in a letter to Paulison. "As the home of West Point, Camp Smith, and Stewart International Airport, the Hudson Valley has a distinguished history of contributing to our nation's security. An expanded FEMA facility in Wallkill will be of great benefit to the welfare and safety of our nation."

The existing FEMA PEP facility is located approximately 70 miles northwest of New York City. The building itself contains approximately 175,000 square feet of affordable space, most of which is currently available. The complex is large enough to accommodate the helicopter and tractor trailer traffic that is vital for emergency transport.

The site is also located near important transportation routes, including Interstates 84 and 87, New York 17, and Stewart International Airport and Air National Guard Base for air transport. "Given the Wallkill site's location, just outside of the high-threat New York City area, crucial support and supplies would be available in a relatively short period of time to millions of people," said Hall.